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"Mother Nature isn't ready to give up the ice," said Mark Gill, who directs vessel traffic for the Coast Guard. "In no uncertain terms, it's been the worst winter on the lakes in 35 years. The ice is thick, the coverage is vast and the weather has been brutally cold over a long period of time. That means it's going to be a long, difficult spring for many of these shippers."

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Figure 1: Updated Text Complexity Grade Bands and Associated Ranges from Multiple Measures⁷

Common Core Band	ATOS	Degrees of Reading Power®	Flesch- Kincaid ⁸	The Lexile Framework®	Reading Maturity	SourceRater
2 nd – 3rd	2.75 - 5.14	42 – 54	1.98 - 5.34	420 – 820	3.53 - 6.13	0.05 - 2.48
4 th – 5 th	4.97 – 7.03	52 – 60	4.51 – 7.73	740 – 1010	5.42 - 7.92	0.84 - 5.75
6 th – 8 th	7.00 – 9.98	57 – 67	6.51 – 10.34	925 – 1185	7.04 – 9.57	4.11 – 10.66
9 th – 10 th	9.67 – 12.01	62 – 72	8.32 – 12.12	1050 – 1335	8.41 – 10.81	9.02 – 13.93
11 th – CCR	11.20 - 14.10	67 – 74	10.34 - 14.2	1185 – 1385	9.57 – 12.00	12.30 - 14.50

Supplemental Information for Appendix A, p. 4